



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

January 24, 2012

Mr. John Niemela, Director
County Road Association of Michigan
P.O. Box 12067
Lansing, Michigan 48901

Ms. Summer Minnick, Director, State Affairs
Michigan Municipal League
208 North Capitol Avenue, 1st Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Mr. Niemela and Ms. Minnick:

Effective February 1, 2012, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is suspending the use of the force account by local agencies on federally funded projects. Several issues concerning quality assurance of the program, as well as whether projects qualify under federal regulations, have been raised. MDOT must review the program guidance documents, as well as oversight levels, to ensure the program is being administered according to federal regulations. Issues to be reviewed at a minimum include:

- Project eligibility
- Cost Estimating
- Quality Assurance on Materials and Workmanship
- MDOT Oversight Level
- Plan and Specification Detail
- Project Documentation

MDOT is placing a 90-day suspension on force account use. A process review including MDOT staff, the County Road Association and members, the Michigan Municipal League and members, the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association and members, and the Federal Highway Administration's Michigan Division will be conducted during the 90 day period. New program guidance documents, eligibility criteria, and oversight processes are the expected outcome of the process review. The force account program status will be assessed at the conclusion of the process review session.

Sincerely,

Mark Van Port Fleet, P.E., Director
Bureau of Highway Development

MVPPF:kar

cc: T. Burch, FHWA
G. Bukoski, MITA

bcc: K. Steudle
G. Johnson
R. VanPortfliet
M. DeLong
R. Cadena